

## ON THIS DAY...

... in 2003 ousted Iraq president Saddam Hussein is captured by American soldiers hiding in a tiny bunker just south of Tikrit. He is later hanged.

## TODAY'S QUOTE

"I had no idea who he was at all. I was talking to the girl mostly." Zaqia Crawford after she sold a Christmas tree to Prince Harry and girlfriend Meghan Markle.

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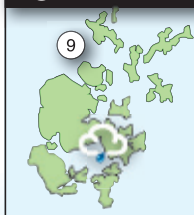
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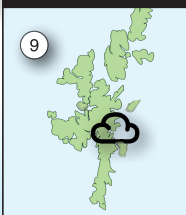
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## TODAY'S WEATHER

## ORKNEY

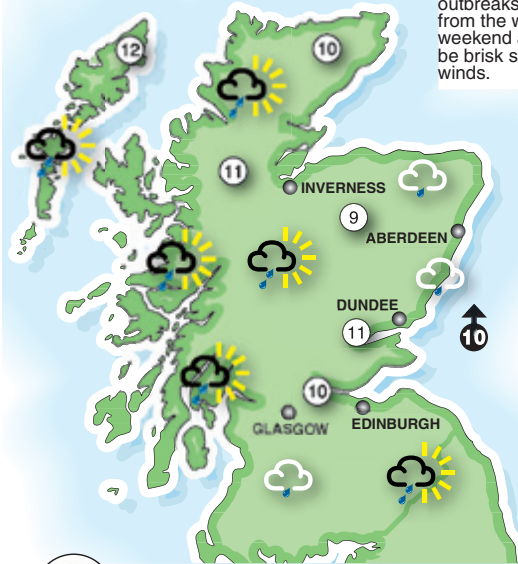


## SHETLAND



**TODAY:** A mostly cloudy start to the day with spells of rain and drizzle, mainly in western areas. It will then turn bright for a time in eastern areas, while it will be wet in the west with a band of rain moving eastwards. Breezy.

**OUTLOOK:** Mostly dry with bright spells on Thursday, but it will turn unsettled by Friday with outbreaks of rain pushing in from the west during the weekend as well. There will be brisk south-westerly winds.



## THE HEALTH LOTTERY

The society raising money this week through the Health Lottery is HealthPerfect, tackling health inequalities in Cornwall and Plymouth. Next week it is HealthIntend, tackling health inequalities in Suffolk.

<b>E1 Health Lottery numbers Tuesday, December 13</b>	<b>13 16 31 46 50 34</b>
<b>E1 Health Lottery numbers Saturday, December 10</b>	<b>08 19 21 43 44 39</b>
<b>E1 Health Lottery numbers Friday, December 9</b>	<b>27 31 33 43 46 07</b>
<b>E1 Health Lottery numbers Thursday, December 8</b>	<b>05 16 36 39 50 26</b>
<b>E1 Health Lottery numbers Wednesday, December 7</b>	<b>16 17 29 37 49 45</b>

## NATIONAL LOTTERY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
No winners of the £10.3million jackpot

<b>LOTTO</b>	<b>11 26 31 32 33 46 20</b>
<b>EURO</b>	<b>14 28 29 48 50 02 08</b>

MILLIONAIRE MAKER: MFJP90659 and HFJP06386

THUNDERBALL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10: 11, 18, 20, 26, 28 T-ball 12



CRACKER: Chancellor with Spike Coates

## XMAS PARTY FER THE KIDS



**X FACTOR** star Rebecca Ferguson dresses as an elf as she arrives with a sackful of presents at a party in Downing Street. The singer, 30, was among a host of stars at the No 11 charity bash.

Chancellor Philip Hammond helped youngster Spike Coates make Christmas decorations.

Other guests included Olympic legend Helen Glover, 30, and husband Steve Backshall, 43. And singer Beverley Knight, 43, also joined in the fun.

They were taking part in the Starlight's Children's Foundation Christmas Party. The foundation helps brighten the lives of sick kids.



GUESTS: Beverley and Steve



Pictures: WENN, PA

ON SONG: Rebecca at No 11 bash

## Talk bid to save Aleppo

TALKS were under way last night over a ceasefire and the evacuation of thousands trapped in war-torn Aleppo.

There were warnings of a "complete meltdown of humanity" in the Syrian city.

Russia, Turkey, the UN and insurgent groups were involved in negotiations.

In London, George Osborne told MPs that the tragedy in Aleppo was due to "a vacuum of Western and British leadership".

## Warning after rise in prices

INFLATION reached a two-year peak last month.

Higher prices for clothing, food and petrol sent the rate to a higher-than-expected 1.2%.

The Bank of England is expecting inflation to shoot up to 2.8% by the middle of 2018.

Expert Howard Archer, of IHS Global Insight, said: "It looks inevitable that consumer purchasing power will deteriorate markedly over the coming months."

## £3BILLION IN BENEFITS PAID ...BY MISTAKE

## Fury at handout blunders

**BENEFITS** chiefs have dished out £3.3billion in payments by mistake.

Millions went to people who had moved abroad, or got a job and no longer needed handouts.

Fraudsters also raked in hundreds of millions more from taxpayers' coffers after conning officials.

The errors last year came as both blunders by the Department for Work

■ by JEFF FARRELL

and Pensions and fraudulent claims were estimated to have soared by 10%. Lib Dem work and pensions spokeswoman Baroness Cathy Bakewell said: "This government seem desperate to find new ways to show their incompetence."

"On their watch, overpayments on benefits are increasing, while failure to pay the full amount to those who

need it is at a record high "Ultimately the people who suffer most from this systemic failure are the genuine claimants who need support."

The bulk of payments made in error last year - £1.3bn - went to people claiming housing benefits.

Other payments included £450m given to people out of work and £330m in pension credits.

The DWP recovered more than £1bn of the payouts. A spokesman insisted: "The reality is fraud and error in the system are historically low."

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NEED: Baroness Bakewell

## Petrol sting alert

**BRITISH** motorists face higher petrol prices after oil-producing nations banded together to boost profits.

Drivers are paying up to £1.20 a litre, up from £1 a year ago, as Opec countries pump less oil.

The AA predicted last night that the average costs would rise from £1.15 a litre to £1.18 for unleaded petrol.

A spokesman warned: "A long spell of higher prices, aggravated by a weak pound, could ravage family budgets."



UP: Fuel prices